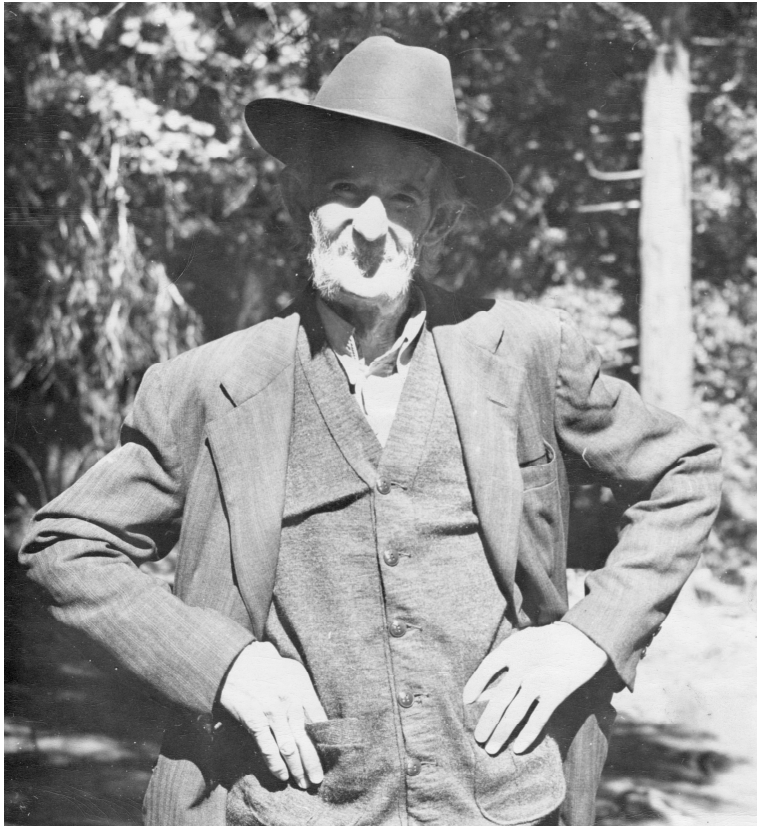


1903 Diary

Robert Haley Asher



Robert Haley Asher, September 9, 1945

Robert Haley Asher was born 28 March 1868, to Josephus Marion Asher, who was the first commercial nurseryman in the San Diego area, providing buyers with fruit trees, shrubs, & vines from his Fruit Vale ranch in Paradise Valley, National City. Robert Asher settled on Palomar Mountain in 1903, and ultimately had 160 acres, living in the Pauma Creek / State Park area. Robert Asher also lived off Palomar Mountain part of the year working as a nurseryman among other things. On Palomar, Asher photographed summer campers, then developed and sold them photos; he also sold postcards off his photos, trapped animals for pelts, collected and sold wild plants, picked apples, and worked odd jobs. Asher moved off Palomar Mountain in 1946 to his sister Mrs. Josephine A. Vacher's place on Fuerte Drive in El Cajon and continued to visit Palomar Mountain until 1951. Asher passed away on 25 April 1953.

These digitized pages are from the Robert Haley Asher papers (held by Peter Brueggeman). When Josephine Vacher's son vacated the family house in El Cajon, the family gave Robert Asher materials at that location to Peter, due to his Palomar Mountain history interests. Digitization of these materials and posting them to the Internet Archive is intended to enhance and preserve access to these materials.

Diary entries from March 26 to April 18, 1903.

01. Diary. Asher. Palomar.

1903. The weeks just before coming to decision to go Palomar for keeps.

Mar. 26. Thursday. Walked from La Mesa to El Cajon. Took train for Lakeside. Walked from Lakeside to Nofziger's. Supper at Nofziger's.

Mar. 27. Friday. Began budding at Nofziger's -- 12 cents per tree. Got Navel buds from the Toles Place. Got wax and cloth from station. Wax from Hamilton's and cloth from Marston's. Breakfast, dinner, supper at Nofziger's. "Violet Come Dark" back from Pearson's. Was sent Mar. 12.

Mar. 28. Saturday. Saw Mr. Hoover about job of budding over his orchard. Am to have his answer Monday. Bid 12 and 22 cents per tree "according". Bought beeswax at Jack Doughty's. Made up a lot of waxed cloth in morning. Budded all afternoon on the rows south of the quinces, etc. B,d,s,Nof. cr.

Mar. 29. Sunday. Went to church at Lakeside P.M. B,d,s,Nof.

Mar. 30. Monday. Budded s.e. Nofziger's. B,d,s, Nof.

Mar. 31. Tuesday. Rain -- more or less. Did not bud. Mr.

Hoover engages me to bud over 150 trees at 12 cents -- same layout as Nofziger's. Wrote 1st draft "Von Hiller Quail. B,d,s, Nof.

April 1. Wednesday. Rain. No budding. Fixed some of the budding cloth. Sent "Violet Come Dark" to Wayside Tales.

"The Von Hiller Quail" to Everybody's. "The Finish of Lord Fitzbogus" returned from Argosy.

02. Diary. Asher. Palomar.

April 2. Thursday. B,d,s, Nof. Finished budding east side. Budded Bloods in the rows first budded.. Cut a lot of buds at Toles's. Met Mr. Toles. (Jerry). Sam Morris says that Joaquin Miller married an authoress. He had read some of her work and determined then and there to court her. She was engaged, however, to another fellow, but Miller drove him off at the point of his revolver. The lady afterward developed into something of a strong character and was keen for woman's rights. Miller wouldn't stand for that, so they separated. Sam says Miller used to be a wild young man. Mark Twain is three years older than Morris. (61 age)

April 3. Friday. B,d,s,Nof. Budding large Sweets and Bloods Bark slips better in the Bloods than in the Sweets. Sam Morris a pioneer of Idaho City. Lost two stores in big fire "Coyote Dog" and "The Hallel Coyote". Fixing trees in

April 4. Saturday. B,d,s, Nof. budding south. Almost finished. Cut buds at Jerry Toles in the morning.

April 5. Sunday. B,d,s, Nofz. Had dinner under the big oak tree. Mr. and Mrs Martin and Mr. M's brother-in-law and family. S.S. and church. Dr. Noble preached. Supper at Flack's with Mr. and Mrs Nofziger.

April 6. Breakfast and dinner at Nofziger's. Finished budding at Nofziger's. Saw Hoover. I am to get enough buds for 200 trees. Am to get 12 cents per tree plus cost of buds. To do work in a week or ten days. Nofziger paid no money on account.. Walked home.

April 7. Tuesday. Walked over to La Mesa before breakfast. Secured job of budding from Mr. Steward. 20 small trees at

03. Diary. Asher. Palomar.

14 cents and 60 large at 18 cents. Mc Kinney bargained for Armstrong -- 100 or more small trees at 12 cents per tree less amount allowed off for live buds -- one half cash down. Sent to Hamilton for 12 lbs parafine and 4-5 lbs bees wax.

April 8. Wednesday. Began budding for Steward. 22 trees grape fruit to lemons. Began on the big lemon trees -- lemon to lemon. Weather threatening. Received letter from Mr. Blodgett. Am to bud 100 trees to oranges furnishing buds and everything at 35 cents. (or less)

April 9. Thursday Threatening. Light rain P.M. Stayed at home(La Mesa). Sam Morris is a prospector. Ferguson of Jamul is his nephew. Finished first draft "Mike Trainer's Coyote Dog" and "The Belled Coyote". Fixing trees in the blackberry patch. Received wax and parafine from Hamilton's

April 10. Friday. Threatening, with a little rain. No budding. Worked around the place a bit. Copied off "Mike Trainer Coyote Dog" and sent it along to The Saturday Evening Post.

April 11. Saturday. Threatening A.M., but cleared off P.M. Budded two trees at Steward's. He was too ill to trim out a any more for me, so I went over to Mc Kinney's and finished trimming out small trees there. Budded from 9 A.M. to 5.30 P.M., putting in Valencias -- cutting buds from trees on the place.

April 12. Sunday. Went to Methodist Church at La Mesa.

April 13. Monday. Finished budding at Mc Kinney's. Total

o4. Diary. Asher. Palomar.

credit \$16.56. Mr. Mc Kinney plowed my blackberry patch for \$1.00. "The Disembodied Smile" back from Harper Bros. Sent Smile to Black Cat. Wayside Tales has received "Viole Come Dark".

April 14. Tuesday. Budded A.M. at Steward's on big lemon trees. Steward sick, so I am to go back in about ten days to finish. Steward paid \$2.00 on account. Mc Kinney paid \$6.00 on account. Bought a wheel from Wright giving old wheel and \$4.00 to boot. Went over to El Cajon home P.M., but returned to La Mesa.

April 15. Wednesday. Cut Navel and other buds in own orchard for the Blodgett job. Took trian to Lemon Grove to get Valencia buds from Col. Bryan's orchard, but he had none to spare. Wheeled over to La Mesa, Got a few buds from Jim Pearson and Mr. Steilberg, where I also got buds of St. Michaels orange. Went down to San Diego. Rested P.M.

April 16. Thursday. Wheeled over to Blodgett's at Point Loma. Trimmed out some of the trees for budding. Very high and disagreeable wind from the south. Dinner at Blodgett's. P.M. Wheeled back to San Diego in face of wind and rain. Ra

April 17. Friday. Heavy rain about 4 A.M. One inch of rain for storm of twenty-four hours. Kept inside most of day reading. Began two stories.

April 18. Saturday. Threatening rain. Go back to La Mesa on bicycle. Puttering around the ranch P.M. "The Von Hiller Q Quail back from Everybody's. A.C. Thompson, Duarte, Calif., charges \$25. per 1000 for Navelencia and Thom.Imp.Navel.

Late Valencia buds \$10.00 per 1000.